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Sent time: 06/09/2015 11:17:52 AM
To: DEC-Sulfolane@list.state.ak.us <dec-sulfolane@list.state.ak.us>
Subject: [DEC-Sulfolane] NTP Begins Long-Term Toxicity Studies on Sulfolane

You are receiving this email because you are on the Contaminated Sites Program's email list to receive notices regarding sulfolane in groundwater near the North Pole refinery.

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) has initiated studies to address important data gaps regarding sulfolane exposure. Of particular concern to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is the lack of information on the effects of long-term exposure to this chemical that has impacted the drinking water supplies in and near North Pole, Alaska.

A 2-year study initiated in May 2015 is evaluating the effects of long-term exposure to the solvent. The NTP studies are expected to provide a clearer picture of the risks associated with sulfolane exposure. The NTP elected to study sulfolane at DEC's request.

The Division is continuing to review a Flint Hills proposal of a 362 parts per billion cleanup level for sulfolane. At present, a cleanup level for sulfolane does not exist. The former site-specific cleanup level of 14 parts per billion (ppb) was revoked in April 2014 by DEC's commissioner in response to Flint Hills' appeal of that number. DEC believes a comprehensive review and determination of an appropriate cleanup level cannot be complete until information from the NTP studies is available.

Until a cleanup level is set, Flint Hills is obligated to continue to provide alternative drinking water to impacted residents. The company currently provides alternative drinking water to an estimated 1,500 people affected by the sulfolane plume. DEC will continue to work with Flint Hills to clean up contamination on the refinery property and track migration of the expanding sulfolane plume.

To find out more about this and other information about the ongoing investigation, please see the DEC website on the project, dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/index.htm. You will find many updated pages and information, including:

- [Revised FAQs](#),
- [A fact sheet with details on the NTP studies](#),
- [An updated Project History page](#).

Sincerely,

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